

**St Andrew's and St George's West  
Order of Service, 29 August 2021**

**A distinctive people**



**Opening Music**

**Greeting**

*Minister* We celebrate this worship service  
in the name of God, Creator and source of all being;  
in the name of God, born of our sister Mary to draw us back into God's  
bosom;  
in the name of God, who continues to move among us revealing truth and  
justice, peace and love;  
in the name of the One God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*All* **Amen.**

*Minister* Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
*All* **who has made heaven and earth.**

**Welcome and intimations**

**Hymn 111** Holy, holy, holy, Lord God almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;  
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity.

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,  
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;  
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,  
God ever living through eternity.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,  
Though the sinful human eye thy glory may not see,  
Only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,  
Perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God almighty!  
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea;  
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity.

### Prayer of Approach

*Minister* God, you love us and care for us:  
*All* **You are our true mother and father.**

*Minister* God, you put us into this world to love and to be loved.  
*All* **You are our true mother and father.**

*Minister* God, you do not turn us away.  
*All* **You are our true mother and father.**

*Minister* God, you promise to be with us today and always.  
*All* **You are our true mother and father.**

*Minister* God, your grace pulls us home to you.  
*All* **You are our true mother and father.**

*Minister* God, your power sends us out to do the work you have given us to do.  
*All* **You are our true mother and father.**

*Minister* God, you called us here to open our eyes and ears and hearts and minds  
and souls.  
*All* **You are our true mother and father.**

*Minister* God, in the business of life, you call us to stillness.  
*All* **You are our true mother and father.**

*Minister* God, into the silence of our contentment, you scream words of justice and  
action.  
*All* **You are our true mother and father.**

*Minister* God, in the midst of the darkness of our souls, you have lit a fire of  
compassion.  
*All* **You are our true mother and father.**

*Minister* God, into the pain of our lives, you breathe a healing wind.  
*All* **You are our true mother and father.**

*Minister* God, from within the midst of the storms of our age, you show us your  
calming presence for us to join.  
*All* **You are our true mother and father.**

*Minister* God, we come to you as we are, because...  
*All* **you are our true mother and father.**

*Minister* God, we are here.  
Remove all that distracts us from you, our true mother and father.  
Reveal yourself in your Word and in our prayers to recognise you as our  
true parent.

Renew us not only today, so that we can love more deeply, more broadly, and more passionately ourselves, one another, all life, and above all you: our true mother and father.

And so we pray:

*All*

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.**

**Your Kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us in the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.**

**For the Kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever.**

**Amen**

## **Confession**

*Minister*

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Let us ask God to forgive us those times in our lives when we ignored God's call and ran from God's love, when we rebelled against God's majesty and broke God's laws.

*Silence*

*All*

Kyrie eleison.

**Lord, have mercy.**

*Minister*

Let us ask God to forgive us those times in our lives when we obscured the beauty God created us to be or became a source of injustice and pain in the lives of others.

*Silence*

*All*

Kyrie eleison.

**Lord, have mercy.**

*Minister*

Let us ask God to forgive us those times in our lives when we did not honour all life, did not live into our calling to be good stewards of what God had fashioned, and violated creation.

*Silence*

*All*

Kyrie eleison.

**Lord, have mercy.**

*Minister*

God who is both power and love, forgive us and free us from our sins, heal and strengthen us by the Holy Spirit, and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Gloria Hymn 762** Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!  
**Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!**

To God be glory forever!  
**To God be glory forever!**

Alleluia! Amen!  
**Alleluia! Amen!**  
**Alleluia! Amen!**

**First reading** Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

Moses spoke to the people; he said:

So now Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you.

You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the LORD your God with which I am charging you. You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes will say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!'

For what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.

**Second Reading** Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

When the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

'This people honours me with their lips,  
but their hearts are far from me;  
in vain do they worship me,  
teaching human precepts as doctrines.

You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition."

Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile." For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

**Handbells**

## **Sermon**

## **Piano Music**

## **Intercessions**

A Prayer for Life and Work Sunday: (Written by The Very Rev Dr Derek Browning)

Ever-Present God, You are our life.

You are the One Who, from the chaos of creation called us into being, shaping who and what we are.

You are the artist and the architect.

You are the poet and the musician.

You bring colour and form, words and harmony into the world where we live, and the lives that we live.

Ever-Active God, with You we work:

to bring peace and justice,

to bring comfort and blessing into the world where we live.

In partnership with You and with others, we shape and reshape our world to make it a place where all are welcome, and all find a place to be safe.

There is life to be lived;

there is work to be done;

for life continues to refresh around us each day, and work continues to unfold in the vision You give us and in the dreams we have for what our world and our communities might yet be.

God of life, God of work, blend these twin realities for us, that in our living and in our working,

we may honour You,

and follow You,

and change this world,

to Your unending glory.

Amen

Prayers of the people:

Loving Father and spirit of all that is good,

we pray to you for our world, knowing that you depend on us to take action so that what you want can happen. We look at the world's needs and we scarcely know where to begin. Save us from despair and detachment, and give us strength to listen and act.

We pray especially for places of fighting, chaos and injustice.

Afghanistan is in all our thoughts, with the terror of torture, death, persecution of women and minorities, lack of human rights and tyranny of war leaders, done in the name of a belief which is a twisted and perverted version of anything you would recognise as worship of you.

We pray for health workers, administrators and all involved in continuing to fight for public health and wellbeing.

We pray for places no longer in the news but where problems still loom large – Northern Ireland, Israel, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Mexico, Nagorno-Karabakh and many others.

We pray for the planet – let us do our small part, and press our politicians to use their larger power to achieve real change.

We pray for Christ's Church. Help us to mend division and work together towards your kingdom on earth. We pray for our own congregation and our fellow congregations in Edinburgh. Show us a way forward in love.

We pray for everyone who is ill, sad, unable to work, forced into dependence on others, frustrated, at the mercy of mental illness.

We recognise the human need to feel useful. Let us search for ways to make others feel useful, and to accept help from others gracefully. Let us look for the good in others and the joy in the world. Guide our prayers, our words and our actions to make them sincere, loving and effective, and to match them to the example of Jesus, our saviour and guide.

**Amen**

**Hymn 694**

Brother, sister, let me serve you,  
let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on a journey,  
and companions on the road;  
we are here to help each other  
walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ-light for you  
in the night-time of your fear;  
I will hold my hand out to you  
speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping;  
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;  
I will share your joy and sorrow  
till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven  
we shall find such harmony,  
born of all we've known together  
of Christ's love and agony.

Brother, sister, let me serve you,  
let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant too.

**Benediction**

As we go from this space,  
give us eyes to see afresh the beauty of relationship,  
give us ears that are quick to listen,  
give us mouths that are slow to speak,  
give us hands whose actions are compassionate,  
give us feet to walk only with You,  
and give us a heart to know and share the blessing of God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
that the whole world may be transformed.  
Amen

**Closing Music**

Worship Leader: Rev Rosie Addis

Scripture Reader: Al Marcham

Prayers: Jane Brown and Alison Campbell

Pianist: Jean Keltie

Technical team: Alison Bruce, Susan McLarty, Mary Margaret Scott,  
Phillipa Burgess, Amy Marcham

**Sources**

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Scripture readings taken from the New Revised Standard Version

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